

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Cabinteely**

Ref: **1334**

County: **Dublin(DunLaoghaire-Rathdown)**

Mark: **231**

Category: **E**

Date(s): **15/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>231</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Welcome to the 2008 TidyTowns competition and thank you for completed entry form and your annual plan.

It is great to see Cabinteely coming into TidyTowns and we sincerely hope that your participation will bring about substantial benefits to your area. The map provided was very useful in identifying the centre of the town and the work you have undertaken there. For future reference, it would also be of great assistance if the map could indicate the boundaries of the overall Cabinteely area as, like most urban areas in Dublin City, it can be difficult to ascertain where the Cabinteely district strictly ends and adjoining districts begin, particularly when assessing 'outlying' residential areas. Well done to Cabinteely Community School for their participation in an Taisce's Green Scools Programme and for their work in the National Spring Clean, which, like all general activities in the area, garners marks under TidyTowns. Remember to continue to highlight anything occurring in the town in next year's entry form so that Cabinteely continues to get all the credit it deserves in future adjudications.

### **The Built Environment:**

The Horse and Hound pub looked wonderful with its new coat of paint. St Brigids Church was presented to a high standard and immaculately landscaped. The new development with Londis and various other shops in the town area are in keeping with the older buildings and do not conflict with the more traditional aspects of the village. Cose Diroze and the Indian restaurant next door displayed colourful flowers and were painted in a lovely traditional style. The village area is very aesthetically pleasing; congratulations for the work you have done to fix up the derelict buildings and for your landscaping which has really paid dividends. The Park shopping area was well kept and clean and tidy. In fact, it is clearly evident that all the businesses in the area take great pride in their appearance which really bodes well for future years.

### **Landscaping:**

The new landscaping on entry to Cabinteely was very good, particularly the work undertaken at the bridge, which combined to provide a lovely welcome to the town. Within the town, there are wonderful mature trees and the overall impression is colourful, green and natural. It was great to see the local businesses doing their part and the three trees maintained by Senso Studio, Simply Flowers and The Garden Shop were noted. Wooden planter boxes in main street were attractive and fitted in well with the overall ambience. The window boxes at the garda station added colour and brightness to the building and the entry to the park was beautifully presented. Transferring this standard to the approach roads will be a challenge for future years.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Well done on you adding bird boxes and signage for the nature wildlife meadow. We look forward to the development of the habitat at the back of Carrig Glen when the linear path is installed. The park, a wildlife haven, was well signposted and is a wonderful amenity to have in your locality. The mini-beast hunt co-ordinated by the TidyTowns committee is a brilliant and novel idea. This is a category that you could do really well in over the years, and to assist there are very useful suggestions on the Heritage Council and Notice Nature web-sites. Participation in national events, such as Heritage Week and Biodiversity week would also help to raise your profile and garner additional support. Very well done on the work carried out this year.

### **Litter Control:**

We were pleased to hear of your involvement with the Annual Spring Clean event and that the school is involved. Your litter rota is obviously successful as very little litter was found on the day of adjudication. However the bins in the Main St, while very attractive, were full to the point of overflowing, so this is something you could look at for future years. Gum awareness day is a really good project and we look forward to hearing how you progress with this in future years.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Well done on upgrading the bring bank area and signposting it so that the community and visitors can locate the area easier. It is good to hear that your Environmental Awareness Officer has come and given talks on waste management. Your plan to get schools to implement a system where all lunch packaging brought to school is brought home is very good one. Encouraging parents to pack lunches in reusable containers will certainly help reduce this type of waste. We look forward to hearing the outcome of your proposals to work with local businesses. Additional marks will certainly be earned under this category as your projects are rolled out.

### **Tidiness:**

The work of the Bank of Ireland volunteers in painting derelict cottages is to be highly commended. It is great to see local businesses taking the effort to participate in creating a better community. Well done also on your work in uprooting weeds from the village centre and removing old and redundant signage. Graffiti was not evident on the day of adjudication. Hopefully the old cable at the Garda station is removed as soon as planned and something is done with the old factory. There were some weeds in the verges of Carraig Glen, but generally most areas contained minimal or no weeds.

### **Residential Areas:**

It is obvious from the high standard throughout that residents take great pride in the appearance of their houses and gardens. In particular, Glen Lawn Drive and Vale Vue Drive were both looking very well on the day of adjudication. It is a great community initiative to have a rota in place to cut grass at Glen Drive and well done on the work to get the Prospect Lawn Footpaths and driveways repaired. Cabinteely Close was neat and tidy and Holmwood Park was very well kept. Carraig Glen was also well maintained. We note that the railings in Cabinteely Park are not suitable for painting as they are galvanised. The new Brennanstown development is well planted with attractive manicured green areas.

Have you considered running a Cabinteely "Best Street", "Best Garden" or "Tidiest Estate" competitions to raise standards even higher and assist your overall TidyTowns efforts. This has been done to great affect in other towns.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Roads in general were in good condition throughout. Welcome signs to Cabinteely on approach roads will be a wonderful addition to the area and assist in defining the community - very important in urban areas. It is noted that your plan to add an entry way to the Park once the walk is established. It was great to see the bike racks in place in the main shopping area to encourage sustainable transport that will not only be better for the environment but also increase the health of your residents. They will ensure that bikes are not left just lying on the ground creating untidiness or a safety hazard. The paving stones in the main shopping area add great

appeal to the area and really support the village feel that Cabinteely has managed to retain.

**General Impression:**

Well done on working with the TidyTowns programme in transforming Cabinteely into a very Tidy Town indeed. The area has managed to maintain a wonderful village feel whilst still being in an urban setting and the main shopping area is a delight to relax in with a cup of coffee on a Sunday morning. Well done on your work to date. We hope it is the start of something big which will see Cabinteely competing for top honours in the not too distant future.